

Accreditation of Adult Education and Youth-In- Custody Programs

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Introduction:

Adult education and Youth-In-Custody (YIC) students are afforded educational opportunities empowering them to become self-sufficient, with the basic academic skills necessary for future employment and personal successes. Through program intervention the adult learner/YIC learner will improve their literacy skills obtaining the knowledge and fulfilling the requirements necessary to complete an adult education secondary diploma.

Pursuing a post secondary degree through a community college or other institution of higher learning could be an outcome reflective of the student's desire for further education. Having an Adult Education Secondary Diploma or a K-12 traditional diploma for YIC students issued by an accredited secondary school is essential to ensure admission and future successes.

Purpose:

Ensuring the adult education/YIC student the same opportunities for post-secondary opportunities and economic stability afforded a traditional K-12 high school graduate by the issuing an Adult Education Secondary Diploma or a traditional K-12 diploma for the YIC student from an accredited program.

Adult Education Local Program Responsibilities:

- All adult education programs receiving state legislative funding, issuing adult education academic credit and adult education secondary diplomas are to be actively engaged in the Northwest Association of Accreditation of Schools (NAAS) process by July 1, 2010 maintaining accreditation for the period of time as state legislative funding is granted to the local program.
- Accreditation is recognized by one of the following methods:
 1. Adult education program is administered “under the umbrella” of an alternative high school as a special purpose school that is accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools.
 2. Adult education program is a “stand-alone” program that is accredited as special purpose school by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools.
 3. Adult education program is administered as a “department” of a high school of the local school district that is accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools.

**Parameters for both Adult Education and YIC Programs Choosing Accreditation
“Under the Umbrella” or as a Department of an Accredited School:**

In order for an adult education or a Youth-In-Custody program to be part of an accredited school and as part of the accreditation process the following must occur:

- A formal letter, memo of understanding, or policy must be produced by the district and/or the accredited school explaining the school’s configuration for accreditation including an organizational chart showing lines of responsibility (accountability or chain of command) for adult education and/or Youth-In-Custody programs. NOTE: Programs stating that they are already accredited under one of the above accredited options documentation must be submitted to the accreditation department at the USOE by November 1, 2009.
- Adult education/YIC enrollment shall be included in the total enrollment of the accredited school.
- Adult education/YIC programs shall be included in any self-study and accreditation visit that occurs with the accredited school. The adult education/YIC program(s) must be included and identified; student demographic and achievement data must be included in the school’s data either as part of the total school or as a separate department(s) or program(s) within the school.
- Adult education/YIC programs must be included explicitly in the accredited school’s action plan.
- At a minimum all transcripts and/or diplomas must carry the name of the accredited school.
- All adult education diplomas must carry the verbiage “Adult Education Secondary Diploma” and may carry the program name, e.g. XYZ High School, Adult Education Program.
- NAAS Annual Reports must reflect and include the adult education/YIC programs when evaluating the NAAS Standards and indicators.
 - Curriculum must meet or exceed Utah State Core Curriculum requirements.
 - All staff members must be included and represented in the annual report.
 - All professional staff must meet Utah Educator Licensing requirements and be included as part of the school as a whole.

Complete accreditation information may be obtained at the USOE website.

How does a school become accredited?

Directory of Accredited Schools

- [Utah Schools](#)
- [Northwest Schools](#)

Utah Board Rules regarding Accreditation

Utah School Accreditation..

Northwest Annual Report

What does Accreditation mean?

New NAAS Revised Standards

There are new revised standards for Northwest Association of Accredited Schools. These standards will be piloted for the 2006-2007 school year. [View the New Standards - PDF](#)

- The purpose of Accreditation is to ensure excellence in education by holding schools accountable to rigorous standards and a process of continuous improvement.
- In the State of Utah, by law all public schools, granting high school credit, are required to be accredited. Accreditation ensures that the credits/diploma a student earns is the result of quality educational experience. Schools that are not accredited run the risk of not having their credits or diplomas accepted by other schools, colleges, or the military.
- Any school accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting body has demonstrated a commitment to rigorous standards and a process of continuous improvement.

Who needs to be accredited?

- All Utah secondary public schools must be accredited.
- High schools must be accredited through the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (NAAS).
- Junior High or Middle schools with 9th grades are accredited by the Utah State Office of Education (USOE) using NAAS standards.
- Junior Highs, Middle and Elementary schools may seek Northwest accreditation if they desire.
- Private and parochial schools that issue high school credit and/or diplomas should be accredited.

For more information visit:

- [Northwest Association of Accredited Schools Policies](#)